

PSTN through a gateway. The server uses the control selections to control communications in the communications network, such as between the plurality of telephony devices, or between a telephone coupled to the PSTN and one or more of the plurality of telephony devices. In this manner, a communications network having a variety of communications devices can be controlled using a portable and non- hardware-dependent OOP-based controller. For information regarding an example communications network to which the present invention may apply, reference may be made to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/880,706, entitled "Communications Service Provider Network," filed concurrently herewith and fully incorporated herein by reference.

The OOP controller is configurable for use in various applications including system administration, office administration, personal communications management, and service provider administration of subscribers. For more information regarding example applications to which the present invention applies, reference may be made to "8x8 Intraswitch Synthesis of Form," append hereto and fully incorporated herein by reference. In one example embodiment of the present invention, a series of OOP controllers is used in a user facility having telephony service through an IP telephony service provider. Each OOP controller in the series is programmed to provide various access and control levels to various users depending upon the level of access desired for each individual OOP controller user. Controller access can include various control selections, such as selections for global service provider controls, local system administration controls, office administrator functions, and end-user control functions for individual communications management. By using configurable OOP controllers,

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